

Introduced by Senator Escutia

December 7, 1998

An act to add Section 12693.76 to the Insurance Code, and to add Section 14005.24 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 87, as introduced, Escutia. Healthy Families: Medi-Cal: eligibility of children.

Existing law provides for the Healthy Families program, under which qualified children are provided with access to health coverage. Existing law separately provides for the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Services, under which qualified low-income persons are provided with health care services.

This bill would provide that, to the extent permitted by federal law and in accordance with the requirements of the bill, a child between 12 months and 19 years of age shall be presumptively eligible for the Healthy Families program, and a child under 19 years of age shall be presumptively eligible for medically necessary Medi-Cal services.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12693.76 is added to the
2 Insurance Code, to read:

1 12693.76. (a) To the extent permitted by federal law
2 and this section, a child older than 12 months of age and
3 less than 19 years of age shall be presumptively eligible for
4 benefits under this part.

5 (b) A qualified entity, as defined in subdivision (c),
6 may determine that a child older than 12 months of age
7 and less than 19 years of age is presumptively eligible for
8 medically necessary services under this part, if the
9 qualified entity determines, without verification, that the
10 child's family income does not exceed the amount
11 permitted for Healthy Families eligibility. When a child
12 has been determined to be presumptively eligible under
13 this subdivision, the child's parent or guardian shall have
14 eight weeks in which to submit a complete Healthy
15 Families application. If an application is submitted during
16 this time period, the child's presumptive eligibility shall
17 not be terminated until a final eligibility determination
18 has been made by the board.

19 (c) For purposes of this section, "qualified entity"
20 means all of the following:

21 (1) Traditional children's health care providers,
22 including pediatricians and health professionals who
23 deliver services in community health centers.

24 (2) Child care centers.

25 (3) School nurses.

26 (4) Community-based programs that provide services
27 to children.

28 (5) Women, Infant, and Children programs.

29 (6) Headstart programs.

30 (7) State or local agencies that determine eligibility for
31 subsidized child care under the federal Child Care and
32 Development Block Grant.

33 SEC. 2. Section 14005.24 is added to the Welfare and
34 Institutions Code, to read:

35 14005.24. (a) To the extent permitted by federal law
36 and this section, a child under 19 years of age shall be
37 presumptively eligible for benefits under this chapter.

38 (b) A qualified entity, as defined in subdivision (c),
39 may determine that a child under 19 years of age is
40 presumptively eligible for medically necessary services

1 under this chapter, if the qualified entity determines,
2 without verification, that the child's family income does
3 not exceed the amount permitted for Medi-Cal eligibility.
4 When a child has been determined to be presumptively
5 eligible under this subdivision, the child's parent or
6 guardian shall have eight weeks in which to submit a
7 complete Medi-Cal application. If an application is
8 submitted during this time period, the child's
9 presumptive eligibility shall not be terminated until a
10 final Medi-Cal eligibility determination has been made by
11 the county.

12 (c) For purposes of this section, "qualified entity"
13 means all of the following:

14 (1) Traditional children's health care providers,
15 including pediatricians and health professionals who
16 deliver services in community health centers.

17 (2) Child care centers.

18 (3) School nurses.

19 (4) Community-based programs that provide services
20 to children.

21 (5) Women, Infant, and Children programs.

22 (6) Headstart programs.

23 (7) State or local agencies that determine eligibility for
24 subsidized child care under the federal Child Care and
25 Development Block Grant.

